

Clyde Hupp and Harry McIlvaigh Oral History
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INTERVIEWER: CLYDE HUPP, HARRY S. MCILVAIGH

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[00:00:09] CLYDE HUPP: I'm looking at the building located at 950 Fawcett Avenue in Tacoma, which the Pierce County Central Labor Council moved out of yesterday. It's a beautiful building architecturally, aesthetically. It's a permanent credit to the physical structure of the city of Tacoma, and an honor to the labor

community for having it in place. The circumstances of the building's construction some 7 years ago, and its sale 1 year ago, and the departure from its occupancy by the central labor council and other labor entities that were tenants, gives some pretty deep emotions and mix of emotions that seem appropriate to me to review at this time. When the occupants of the former Labor Temple located at 15th and Market streets were faced with some alternatives imposed by urban renewal in the area. A building that, in some respects, although having served labor well for many years, was at the point of not meeting the entire needs of labor. Faced with the possibility of major renovation, possible eminent domain for closure by urban renewal, and the alternatives of building or buying an existing facility elsewhere, a rather lengthy debate took place over at least 2 years as to what those alternatives should be.

The alternative eventually chosen was to purchase this property from the city of Tacoma that itself had been acquired under urban renewal at 950 Faucet, and to design a building to labor's own specifications, and have it constructed. This was done during the calendar year of 1971 and the building was occupied in early 1972. There was some initial dissention in making this decision, with a diversity of thought about what should be done. With some factions advocating retention of the Labor Temple at 15th and Market, and a major remodel following a vacancy which would allow virtually gutting the building and complete structural, mechanical and decorative refinishing.

Another faction and thought which had some considerable support was to go outside the central business district, along an existing arterial or interstate 5, and search for a site where a building, or a group of small buildings, possibly could be situated meeting the specified needs of interested labor organizations. As a result there was a lack of complete unanimity and enthusiasm for the alternative decision made to locate to 950 Fawcett. In the early months of occupancy of the new building called the Labor Center, it became rapidly apparent that there had been some serious lack of appreciation of operating expenses, including property taxes, by the economical forecasts made by accountants. Initial projections for taxes, as I recall, were in the range of \$6000 and with the first full year of taxes, which came due in 1973 I believe, it amounted to some \$18000 and of course with the economic climate that existed in the decade of the 1970s, that escalated substantially year after year from there on. The original labor tenants in the building entered into 5 year leases for their occupancy, and in spite of the fact that the substantial parties and the officers who served as directors of the Labor Temple Corporation, owner and developer of the property felt they really had a permanent commitment as a part of the labor community; that permanent commitment if necessary to state that in years was referred to as a 25 year commitment.

At the end of the 5 year lease period, December 31, 1976, tenants still remaining in the building declined to renew their leases. Some original tenants had, during that interim period, for various reasons had relocated, and I'm thinking specifically of the two locals of Machinus: Automotive 1152 and 297, which were consolidated into district 160, and required by that consolidation to relocate, and typographical workers who were also consolidated, gave up a Tacoma office entirely to operate out of an existing facility in the Seattle Labor Temple. In the ensuing early months of 1977, a number of remaining labor tenants began to give verbal indications of their near term departure from the building. As the year wore on, in February I was elected secretary treasurer, succeeding LH Peterson and in March, April, and May the Labor Temple corporation directors began examining the fiscal position and the potential future of the building. In May, they made the decision to give an exclusive listing for the sale of the building to Vic Lion, Tacoma Realty Incorporated.

As the summer wore on, local unions that had given earlier indications of possibly relocating began to give

formal notice and the retail parks moved in October of that year, leaving a large portion of the third floor vacant. We never were successful in attracting another tenant to that space. The desirability of the building and its location, its amenities became attractive to a three party partnership composed of engineer Ray Chalker, architect James McGranahan, and attorney Dave Schwiner. They eventually bought the building on December 1, 1977, and began to repair some of the existent vacant space for their own occupancy and to relocate some of the remaining tenants so that their space could be incorporated for that purpose.

A number of the labor organizations that had early said they would consider remaining with the building upon its sale, in fact asked the new owners or rather responded to the new owners request to maintain the name of the building as the Labor Center in a positive answer that should be done, began to leave the building and that continued to be the case throughout 1978. Late in 1978, we began to contact people that had either posed the question to us about "where is the future home of the Central Labor Council" and/or, in their own local union, had expressed an immediate or near term early need for new quarters. We, as a result of that, came to call ourselves the Ad Hoc Committee for Labor Temple X. The result of that committee's activities were that the time still was not right for labor organizations to come together into the existing Labor Temple corporation or form a new building owners association for the purpose of acquiring a building, but rather that the individual labor unions and probably the central labor council should make up their individual minds to relocate, and to do so in a facility other than the building of 950 Fawcett.

Probably the only explanation for the exclusion of consideration of the building on 950 Fawcett was a general atmosphere, not easy to substantiate in any other way than to call it a feeling and a mood and an attitude amongst labor people that was no longer labor's building, that labor was not welcome there, that labor would be better off, as soon as they forgave and forgot. I'll have to say that for our part, that is the officers and staff of the central labor council, we were treated well by the new owners, we were given what we considered every fair consideration, and we offered our cooperation to them in return. Nevertheless, it was time to go and when we looked at the alternatives, without funds for a substantial down payment for another building, we only had the option of becoming tenants somewhere else. That somewhere else, obviously, should, if possible, be in a facility that could be identified as a labor facility. As a consequence we looked at the carpenters building, talked about the other labor buildings to the principle officers, namely the operating engineers, the pipe fitters, the laborers and the boarder makers. We were aware that the teamsters building might be available, but that would be a purchase that we didn't have the privilege of. We were encouraged to and did, meet our ad hoc committee meeting, the electricians building at 3049 S 36th Street, with the understanding that our meeting there implied no prior commitment of any kind.

In summation, I guess, the conclusion to be stated is that with the committee's determination, with our individual investigations, and best personal judgment, the only reasonable alternative appeared to be to rent space that was yet to be remodeled for the purpose, on the second floor of the IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers] building. That recommendation was made to the board, the board and the trustees jointly were given the power to act by the central body delegates to relocate to the IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers] building. Now, it's a beautiful sunny day, the first of March, March having come in like a lamb. I'm looking at the corner of the old central labor building and a beautiful picture of Mt. Ranier in the background a little ring of clouds about ten percent of the way down from its crown, the foothills still covered with snow. Although it's been said that the sale of the building known as the labor center was a defeat for labor, I don't view it that way. I view it rather as a symptom of all of the little defeats that have cumulatively been assimilated by the labor community in the last decade, not only in this city, but across the nation. I don't

put any blame on the building, or the designers, or the concept. Rather, I have to look at it as a new beginning and we're going to find much more pleasant of a climate and environment in the IBEW building; there's going to be a semblance and a feeling of labor being back together. People are going to be saying all those right words, and in that kind of a climate when they say the right words about labor getting together, and about cooperation and mutual support, can the action be far behind?

[END SIDE A/BEGIN SIDE B]

[00:18:56] CLYDE: McIlvaigh on labor temples, labor studies, apprenticeship, the 1935 strike.

The Labor Center Building at 950 Fawcett Ave, can you tell us about some of those earlier attempts?

[00:19:20] HARRY: I was talking about this one that the water built up here just up the hill on Tacoma Ave and it failed because they couldn't, they didn't have the cooperation and didn't have the money either. They lost that property; it went back to a fellow, who agreed to give it to them if they built the Labor Temple on the property. Later on, during WWI, they bought property down here on 13th and Market, where the parking lot is, and they lost that. There were 28 unions; the Central Labor Council had nothing to do with it. 28 unions bought that property and they lost it because they didn't have the cooperation from the rest of the labor movement and it went back to the original owners. When we had to get out of the city hall annex at 621 Pacific Ave, that was the old NP building, the NP quarters were lines west were in that building and they moved to Seattle. The city bought that property for \$50,000, and so we got a lease on it, we got a lease from the city on it. We were there 17 years. When we moved in there we had most of the union meetings there and having offices there. We had to get out because the city had to have the space, so they said.

We had quite a time finding suitable places to buy, and we wanted to buy. I was pushing for it because I had some experiences with labor temples, from the different places I worked; I worked all over the country. I was contended that labor should own its own building, have its own home; live together like a big family. Really the basis of our existence is to be together, cooperate together and tolerate each other. And not think that this fellow knows more than the other fellow and so forth, we all know something; put it all together and work together. Teamwork is what does the job. So we bought that building on 15th and Market, the old Baker Hotel. It was a hotel at the time, I had a problem getting the people to move out of it but we did. We paid \$42,000 for it and we had a contract to pay for it in 4 years, and we paid for it in 17 months, that's the kind of cooperation we had. Nearly all the unions who had offices moved their offices there from the old city hall annex. We had wonderful cooperation in that building, I've never seen better cooperation in a place I've worked in a labor movement and I've worked in a lot of labor movements. We would get them together, they might disagree about certain things but not violently; they would consider each other's opinions, and if they had to compromise then alright, that's what we'll do. We bought that building down there in record time and did some wonderful organizing.

This building was the 4th temple. One on Tacoma Ave, one on 13th and Market, one on 15th and Market and then this one. But when we went to buy this one down below, the ones that had experience with the other failures they predicted that we'd never make it, Clyde's done, he's all through. I didn't pay any attention, I was determined we were going to go through with it. We did and they couldn't believe it when we announced that we made our last payment on the Labor Temple on 15th and Market, we're going to have a big celebration, and we did. Of course we had to get out of there, you know about that, and buy another place. Urban Renewal bought that property down there, they had to, and they would have condemned it and forced it into the courts.

It's a sad situation, that we lost it, it's a sad situation it shouldn't have happened. 1910.

[00:26:42] CLYDE: 1910? Was the first attempt?

[00:26:44] HARRY: 1910. 1910 was the date they first agreed to raise the money to put a building up there, was 1910. He was a painter, Erp, old man Erp was his name

[00:27:15] CLYDE: He owned the property?

[00:27:17] HARRY: He owned that property. As I said before he looked like Abe Lincoln, the council didn't have anything to do with it. It was a bunch of unions that were going to buy it. We never got into the Labor Temple business until we moved out of the building there on 13th and Broadway. We had the upstairs there; that building has been torn down now. We rented that building but we had to get out of that. That's when we went into the city hall annex, we had a lease from the city to use that building; rent it and we were there 17 years. The council operated it, that's the only time they got into the Labor Temple. It was going alright until the city notified us that they had to take it over, and that's when we formed the Labor Temple Corporation that bought the building down there and the council ran the whole works. All on a nonprofit basis.

They made the run as low as possible to meet expenses. Nobody got anything; the secretary didn't get anything, the corporation didn't pay the secretary of the central council. It was a separate entity and separate book keeping and everything. We paid for it in 17 months and made quite a success but then we had to get out of there because urban renewal moved in and there was no choice. That's when we got this property here. [inaudible] Buy that property across the street for the parking lot and they wouldn't do it, some dissention started to arise at that time see, and it started to splinter so, too bad, we lost it.

[00:30:37] CLYDE: What do you think about the future as far as a new home for labor?

[00:30:43] HARRY: Well it's going to be pretty rough, Harry. I think, I'm waiting to see, I have been now for 16 years and conditions are different. The psychology of the working class is different now, and we got too of course another generation that's taking over the movement. The teamwork and cooperation is not there like it was when we bought the other building in 1941, we bought that other building in 1941 and had wonderful cooperation. I never saw anything like it. I could sit down at the phone and I could call all the paid business agents, full-time business agents and most of them into a meeting for 30 or 40 minutes. They would drop everything and come to the old city hall annex and that's when we organized the business agent's luncheon. I don't know whether that's still going on or not.

[00:32:25] CLYDE: Yes, on a limited basis it is

[00:32:30] HARRY: Well, we organized that at the time. We had them all come there you see. At this luncheon, well I pushed out because I figured that a lot of the business agents didn't know each other, they were new. We had quite a few new unions, we reorganized some of the old unions who had gone into hibernation, you know, who still had their charters but didn't have any money. So we reorganized them, I organized and reorganized 47 unions and got their charters reinstated, some I got new charters for them and we really worked together. But right now it's a little different psychology and our people have been facing rough stuff down there in Auburn and the depression. I hope and pray that we can get a home again, of our own. Because it means a whole lot, from an organizational point of view and also an economic point of view, and become a big family where you

know each other and see each other. Stuff is scattering out, becoming isolationists that's what they are, now in a lot of new instances.

The people that moved out of there, I don't know why, whether they had too I don't think so but I don't know because I wasn't there. That was bad, I hated to see that. After you work so hard to get everyone home and get the idea established over a period of years, most of us living in the same building and meeting in the same building. Cooperating in order to get the job done and work with the community, cooperating with the projects and a community that helped everybody. I hope that we can get back to that condition.

We got some terrible enemies now too; we got some enemies just as bad as they ever were 50-60 years ago. They have different methods of doing things you know, to get the same results 40-50 years ago, destroy the labor movement now that seems like an extreme statement to destroy the labor movement, there are certain elements in the labor movement; the industrial life and economic life of our nation that wants to destroy organized labor. Some people say well you are nuts, but there are, they're here. We got that resistance to meet again, we've always had it and we always will, but we ought to be prepared for it and realize that, you got to recognize that. It's a mental struggle, to maintain our position and go forward and do some things for the good of humanity.

[00:37:43] CLYDE: You mentioned a little earlier that before you settled for your some 30 some year career here in Tacoma that you'd worked in the labor movement in various parts of the country. Where were some of those other places that you'd been a worker and participant and observer of the labor movement?

[00:38:17] HARRY: Well I come from a family that was unionists. My brother was older than I; he was a locomotive engineer, very active in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. He got me a job in the railroad shops in Van Buren, Arkansas in 1904 and I was only 17 years old. Of course I fell right into the movement then, so I've been a member of the national association of machinists since 1909.

[00:39:47] CLYDE: Since 1909?

[00:39:49] HARRY: Yeah. I worked at the trade in a great many places around the country. Of course the first place I always went when I got a job was to the union, to report and everything. When I was active I did whatever I could, to help carry out the principle of organized labor. I studied everything I could get a hold of pertaining to the history of the labor movement, its aims and objectives. I attended hundreds and hundreds of lectures on economics and on the labor movement. I spent a lot of time everywhere, I went into public libraries, I didn't do anything else besides work and study and read.

[00:41:23] CLYDE: You reached up there and touched your lapel button, what is that?

[00:41:28] HARRY: That's my life membership after 50 years, I'm still a member but they won't take any dues from me. I would pay them but they won't take it, see. I got that in 1909, I mean 1969. I worked mostly for the railroads, in the years I worked for the trade. I worked in Milwaukee for 13 years, in both the electric end and the steam end, they called it; steam locomotives and electric locomotives.

[00:42:21] CLYDE: What years was that?

[00:42:24] HARRY: 1920-1933, I came here in 1920 from Great Falls, Montana. I was assigned there during

World War I because of the scarcity of railroad machinists. In World War I the railroad moved more than 90% of the troops and materials for the World War; it was a big job keeping up the rolling stock.

[00:43:15] CLYDE: Was that for the Milwaukee?

[00:43:31] HARRY: No that was for the Great Northern and Great Falls, Montana. My draft board assigned me there, I stayed there because of the scarcity of machinists, especially in that part of the country, so I did, and I stayed there. Then I came here in 1920 and went to work for the Milwaukee. I had worked before that for the Missouri Pacific and a number of places on the road and I worked in Colville Kansas and the Missouri Pacific. I worked Chicago, but I always redacted. I always tried to do what they told me was the right thing to do and I tried to promote the best efforts of the labor movement.

[00:44:45] CLYDE: You mentioned your time in Great Falls, Montana as being transferred there by your draft board, Mac. Was there a pacifist movement that existed in the Great Falls area during those World War I years?

[00:45:04] HARRY: Yeah, oh yeah. Pacifists were all over then. We didn't have that problem in World War II, we had them but not like we did in World War I. When we were out in the prairie of course our preparedness went down to 0 but yes we had that problem.

[00:45:36] CLYDE: Did any of the leaders of that pacifist movement attempt to ally or identify with the labor movement?

[00:45:48] HARRY: Oh yes, Tom Mooney, do you know anything about him?

[00:45:52] CLYDE: I read something on him, yes.

[00:45:54] HARRY: He was very active then, got in the can, got in jail because of his opposition to the war. He was charged with the explosion on Market Street that killed a number of people, I don't think he actually had anything to do with that. People within the pacifist movement did that, yes we had a lot of trouble with pacifists. The communists too you know, they were around then, they were around and they were working with the pacifists. We got into more trouble with the communists here during World War II than we did with the pacifists.

[00:47:02] CLYDE: One of the continuing challenges to the labor movement is the system of apprenticeship in the various trades and classifications that utilize apprenticeship training. As you probably are well aware a little bit of the struggle currently regarding the role of the federal government vs. the state government's authority in apprenticeship, you were instrumental yourself in the period of time which established the modern apprenticeship program. Would you tell us something about that experience?

[00:48:10] HARRY: Well, of course I was always concerned about apprentice training because I was one myself. I had quite a time; I had to buy my own stuff like textbooks and things like that. We had a period of vocational schools, fake schools and stuff like that. In my early days it became a big racket and finally put out of business. Anyways I always worked for apprentice training, a member of an apprentice local union, which was sponsored by my international, they don't have them anymore but they used to organize the apprentice boys.

[00:49:21] CLYDE: The apprentice boys were placed in a separate local union then?

[00:49:24] HARRY: Yeah, under the supervision of the international. They trained them there in unionism. They made me secretary of that when it was organized. That was where I finished my trade on the Missouri Pacific, in a place called Argenta which is now known as North Little Rock Arkansas, the biggest shop on the system. We had 45 machinist apprentices in that one shop, so I got started out in that, I took great interest in apprentice training and I kept it up all my life. When I came here and became secretary of the central labor council, why that of course was the same year that Roosevelt was elected, and Madame Perkins was appointed secretary of labor, and she was a great woman. One of the greatest women that ever lived, she was very much in favor of apprentice training, she worked with John P. Fry who was editor of the movement's journal at the time, later became secretary treasurer of the metal trade department, a great educator. I was appointed by her on an apprentice committee, federal apprentice committee, before the state of Washington had a program for apprentice training.

[00:51:34] CLYDE: What year was that?

[00:51:36] HARRY: That was 1934, right after she took office. They had a supervisor, a state supervisor of vocational education here and he was a wonderful fellow. He knew vocational education, as a part of his training from A-Z and he was trying to expand it and he was trying to get the state to pass legislation, enabling legislation to set up a program of apprentice training under the provisions of the national apprentice training program. So she appointed me on that program in 1934 and then later on we did get legislation passed enabling the state of Washington to take part in the federal training program. I served on the, I was the first labor member to serve on the Washington apprenticeship council. They had 3 on there, one from industry, one from labor and one from mysterious public. Who did fine, they were all in favor of the program. This supervisor of state apprentice training in Washington whose name was Jim Kelly, he worked with us and he worked hard to get the legislation through. We had a good program. I was on there during World War I, just before the end I had to get off. It was just too much, I couldn't take care of it. The job of the secretary of the council, I resigned. They put a fellow by the name of Raoul in my place. But now from what I can understand, I don't like what they want to do at all. I don't agree with the program that they've got. They've set up a scab incubator, that's what they're doing in my opinion. We had a lot of opposition to apprentice training here by some pretty liberal people who were in the legislature, some voted against our legislation but a lot later, on the second time they, voted for it. They couldn't understand why we had to have apprentice training, why anybody and everybody couldn't be taken in, learn the trade they wanted to learn. I was on there for several years, I forgot how long now.

[00:55:11] CLYDE: I think it was in 1937 they passed the national apprenticeship act known as the Fitzgerald Act. Did your efforts have any relationship to that, to federal legislation under the secretary?

[00:55:32] HARRY: We worked on our U.S. senator and our U.S. Congressmen to get it passed, we were always in touch with the national office. We had a good friendship with the council. I've heard a lot of bad news about what's going on now. I don't know how true it is

[00:56:10] CLYDE: Well, to the extent that there seems to be a debate going on that maybe isn't in labor's best interest, it's true from that standpoint, but I understand Senator Magnuson also shares some of our concerns about it.

[00:56:27] HARRY: Yeah, yeah. Well Magnuson he's been supportive of the program.

[00:56:38] CLYDE: Has he always been supportive of apprenticeship programs?

[00:56:41] HARRY: As far as I know, yeah, even when he was in the state legislature before he went to the national legislature.

[00:57:00] CLYDE: One of the unique things to our area is the vocational school as we've come to know it over the years. A gentleman by the name of Vern Bates came to Tacoma, participated in that, I suppose you were active in either inviting Vern to Tacoma or seeing that he stayed here.

[00:57:31] HARRY: I suppose. He came from Spokane and we knew about him and he was a good union man, he knew apprentice training and knew the proper procedures and everything. Up to the time he came here, we didn't have very good success. We had just a small building right on the corner of 11th and Yakama. When Vern came here things really moved, he knew his job, he was very dedicated to vocational education and apprentice training. We kept him here, we urged him to stay here and he got along with everybody. He was a wonderful fellow and he made a great institution out of it and I hate to see it go to pieces. It can do great harm if allowed to do so, the vocational school and the apprentice training program if it gets out of hand. Vern Bates, he was one of the best in the country.

[00:59:12] CLYDE: Do you recall the circumstances which first brought him to Tacoma?

[00:59:20] HARRY: Well they had trouble at the vocational school and making the program work. We had a school board here at that time. When he came here we had a school board, they were enemies of organized labor, enemies of everything. We had a lot of trouble with that, after he got here and took over, we got together with the employers and laborers and others that were concerned and got rid of that school board. The labor council was the ones who got rid of them. We rooted them out of office and we got some decent people on the school board, contractors and so forth, and really went to town then. They accused me of ousting the school board, we ousted the school board, we got to get rid of those sons of bitches, and we did. We held a meeting down at the temple and really went to town, they organized against us, they had a woman on the school board and she was impossible, but anyway we got a good school board and the Central Council did it, and that's about all there is to it.

[01:01:27] CLYDE: I understand that you might have had some problems back there in 1935 with the lumber and sawmill workers dispute.

[01:01:42] HARRY: Yes there was an organization known as the Royals, Royal Allegiant of Loggers and Lumbermen, an industry wide company union, controlled by the bosses, officered by the bosses and some pick workers that could be handled. They wrecked the old international timber workers union which was affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, they totally wrecked it. The 4 L's were there for a long long time and they were a detriment to our movement and when the panic, or the depression came, they cut the wages of the lumber and sawmill workers down, some of them were working for a dollar a day, 10 hours. That sounds like it was unreasonable, but they won't talk about that, they ignore it now. They quit the 4 L's.

[01:03:26] CLYDE: The individual members started pulling out?

[01:03:28] HARRY: Yes, we did a lot to help. We held meetings; we let them use our halls free. When they had

the strike in 1935, which was rough around here. We had 600 militia men here; Governor Martin brought them in. They first bought the state patrol in to control the picket line. We went to Olympia with permission from the council, talked to Governor Martin about it and tried to get him to cancel the order, but he said he already ordered it and the chief of patrol is putting the order into effect and they'll be in Tacoma at midnight tonight. So we came back here and met with the chief of police and the commissioner of public safety got permission from the government, and city government, they couldn't do anything but they were opposed to it. The governor gave the order and we had 600 of these state militia men brought from all over the state and locally. They rode the streets of Tacoma in army trucks night and day for 6 days and it was a hell of a time. They used gas down there at the 11th street bridge on the 11th day against the pickets; of course the pickets were mass picketing then. They tried to break up the picket line; they used tear gas and had 6 vans. They didn't shoot anybody but several of the fellows got clubbed because they carried clubs too. One of the workers, he got struck with a van, but it wasn't too bad because it was all in meet, see. An army truck was burnt in front of the Tacoma Art's building now, it was a bank then, and we had quite a time. I had quite a time. I was working 20 hours a day. We made it, we broke up the foil, and we broke the whole thing up. Of course we had cooperation from other places too you know, some of those fellows, boy, some of those 4L men went hog wild, we had quite a time with them.

[01:07:39] CLYDE: You mean there was some violence between the workers themselves?

[01:07:42] HARRY: Yeah there were the workers who stayed on the job and those who were on strike. There was a lot that was vacant, and it was property of the school board. The county took it and built a bullpen around it, a barbed wire bull pen, and they used that to jail these pickets, they couldn't get them to the county jail, and put them in there. The militia would guard it, which went on during that time, but we had quite a time.

[01:08:38] CLYDE: Did you have personal friends or acquaintances amongst those pickets or the officers that were involved at the time?

[01:08:46] HARRY: Not that I know of, none that I know of. The state patrol, they were terrible, they were worse than the militia, they would club us. We went down and talked to the governor, I already started to tell you about that. We told him that it was only going to make things worse; we're not looking into a crystal ball. We're speaking from experience, if you don't call it off you're not going to be able to control the situation. He said there's nothing I can do, the orders have already gone through and I can't get a hold of the chief and it's got to go through. The state patrol couldn't handle it, that's when he had to call these people in, the militia. I can't think anymore.

[01:10:03] CLYDE: Did you have the opportunity to personally visit the picket lines to get a sense of the attitude/feeling?

[01:10:16] HARRY: Oh yes, down on the picket line, we used to go down to the 11th street bridge and meet these workers who had stayed on the job and that's when the real rough stuff started.

[01:10:34] CLYDE: Were you ever down there on one of those occasions?

[01:10:36] HARRY: Yes I was down there but I didn't get into it you know. Some of those guys could pick me up and squeeze me through their fingers like that, you see. I knew how to handle myself, and I used to see what was going on. I never got gassed, I stayed out of the gas.

[01:10:55] CLYDE: But some others weren't so fortunate?

[01:11:06] HARRY: No, no, no. A lot of things you could tell wouldn't make sense, wouldn't make sense.

We elected a Longshoreman here during that time, the Lumbermen went to him. Jack Burkmen was his name, great big fellow, and longshoreman. He was worth quite a lot when they had the longshoremen's union on the pacific coast, the ILA. He was secretary-treasurer of the pacific coast district with headquarters in Tacoma. So we elected him chair during all the trouble, the lumbermen went to him to try and use his force against the deputy sheriff to break up the picket line, you see. Of course he wouldn't do it; they called him all kinds of names.